WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO TO HALT CRIME?

Text. Mtt. 12:35 The good man out of his good treasure bringeh forth good things; and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Everyone aware of the increase of crime. Thinking men are studying how to overcome it. The proposal of an educational campaign. What can the church do to help stop it?

After visiting jails, penitentiaries, orphanages, asylumns and other public insittutions and after consulting with educators physicians, prison wardens and others in position to give reliable information, a noted lecturer and scientific thinker reached a few definite conclusions that throw valuable light on our problem.

1. 95% of moral offenders know at the time of committing a wrong act that it is wrong and have an average conception of possible consequences to themselves and others. If this conclusion is correct, then a lack of knowledge is not a principal cause of vice and crime.

2. Teaching limited to the communication of knowledge and the development of intellectual capacity is negative in its effects upon character. Three times as many persons are unfit and inefficient from lack of character qualities as from lack of knowledge.

Have we not been teaching in our schools the ill effects of alchohol and tobacco upkn the body and mind? Is there less smoking today? Are people taking the 18th amendment with a good grace? Even knowing that it is unconstitutional are not men engaged in the illicit traffic everywhere?

3. To tell persons that a thing is wrong or harmful; to explain why; to fully instruct in possible consequences, will not stop more than one in ten from pursuing a wrong course when such a course is due to a hereditary tendency, a fixed habit, a strong desire, or an impelling external influence.

Heart qualities must be changed to change character.

9ut of 50,000 who signed pledge but 7 in every 100 kept it.

4. A study of sociological, industrial, economic and civic problems in more than 100 cities forced the conclusion that selfish motives, unrighteous aspirations, false concepts of the purposes and priveleges of life, are responsible for existing wrong conditions; that reforms and reformers are limited to surface work and results, and that, howeverworthy their motives and commendable their methods, they can never bring about or maintain righteousness either in individuals or in nations.

5. These and related facts, together with evidence of low spiritual vitality in current)ty, the failure of the church to unite its membership in securing righteous legislation and enforcing law, the indifference of the masses to religion, the propagation of unchristian doctrines, pseudo-science, and false philosophies in the name of religion; all contribute to the conviction that the revitalizing of the church and the spiritualizing of its membership are fundamental to the

solution of all other problems.

Babson's testimony. Read page 73. The Future of the Churches.

Some scripture verses that shed light on our subject.

Prov.23:7 As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.

Mtt.12:34-35 Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The good man out his good treasure bringeth forth good things; and the evil man out of his evill treasure bringeth forth evil things.

The scripture lesson now takes on a specific significance, does it not? "Except one be born anew he cannot see the K. of G." Read Jn.3:17-21.

Our duty as the Community Church of Vacaville is plain, is it not? As individual members we must demonstrate the Spirit and saving power of Jesus Christ. How? Thru heart belief and changes our characters.

As a church we must seek to save every boy and girl and every

man and woman within our reach.

As a church we must seek to cooperate with our schools in the moral education of the pupils.

As a church we must clear the community atmosphere of all evil influences and make the good influences a positive attraction to our people, especially the younger ones.

Read Babson page 63

In conclusion read Babson's conclusion.